

Douglas Ga
Nov 6, 1956

My dear Joshua - Please forgive the handwritten letter and the unconventional stationery. I wanted to write you personally, and I do better with ruled paper. If I used a pen and the usual paper, you would spend more time reading this than it is worth.

First, my abject apologies for not having written. There are no real excuses, I just kept procrastinating. We took our younger daughter to Lexington to the University of Ky (Sophomore) on Sept 13. Thence to Cincinnati to see our elder for the weekend (she is married and teaching 4th grade but I do not know how long that will last, not long I hope). Then with a weekend ^{in Dallas in between} ~~on~~ on to Cleveland and Wooster, O. to visit ~~the~~ of Katherine's sisters and back to Atlanta Oct 1. Class from Oct 8-19 with the usual preparations and then barstomping Kansas with a series of one night stands to Nov 1. Leave for Atlantic City on Nov 10 for 1 week. Surprise!, I did some laboratory work today. You can see how discouraging this all is and makes one wonder if any work at all will be possible. After Atlantic City I have no more commitments until Houston in February.

I definitely delayed too long on coming to Madison. Probably I should have tried to make it in July after the wedding but at the time that seemed impossible. Now a ruling has come down from Olympus that no P.H.S. employee will travel anywhere at the expense of any organization
(over)

other than the government. Whether this ruling is government-wide or applies only to P.H.S. I do not know. It means that there is little chance of my reaching Madison.

I enjoyed the paper on phase variation even though I failed to acknowledge it. I am not sure I understand it fully but the part I did grasp was very interesting. There is one statement on p 12 (last sentence of HZ) which should be restated. Somatic antigens are not sensitive to formalin. It is better to state that somatic (particularly O) agglutination is suppressed by formalin in the presence of H antigen. This has nothing to do with antigenicity, absorbing capacity, etc. Somatic antigens are unaffected by formalin.

The news about the suppressor of ph¹ in Tyne is rather exciting. I am not sure just what 53-2034 is since I do not have records at hand but I suspect it was a ^{homologous} specific Tyne. On the contrary, Seligmann's Tyne with the X phase yielded 5 phases with no difficulty for me. It was about like S. virchii in that respect. It is queer that you had difficulty with Seligmann's culture. I had not thought of a suppressor factor but had thought simply in terms of selective poor viability in one phase or the other. I sent Stocker several cultures, sera, etc to work on this but I believe he hasn't been able to get to it yet.

Please give my best to the Chakars. I am glad to know they are settled and hope all will go well for them.
With kindest regards to you and Esther,

Sincerely,

Many thanks for the most reprints

Phil